

In The Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A method for reducing the incidence of mastitis in a dairy animal, the method comprising the step of:

topically applying an antimicrobial composition to the teats of the animal, the composition comprising (1) from about 60% to about 95% of a lipophilic polar solvent selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol, ethylene glycol, glycerol, and isopropanol, by weight of the composition; (2) at least two C₈ to C₁₄ fatty acids in a total amount of from about 0.5% to about 5% by weight of the composition; and (3) from about .5% to about 39.5% of a secondary solvent, by weight of composition.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, where the lipophilic polar solvent is propylene glycol.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, where the lipophilic polar solvent is present in an amount from about 60% to about 75% by weight of the composition.

4. (Previously Presented) A method for reducing the incidence of mastitis in a dairy animal, the method comprising the step of:

topically applying an antimicrobial composition to the teats or udder of the animal, the composition comprising:

from about 60% to about 95% of a lipophilic polar solvent selected from

the group consisting of propylene glycol, ethylene glycol, glycerol, and isopropanol, by weight of composition;

at least two C₈ to C₁₄ fatty acids in the total amount from about 0.5% to 5% by weight of the composition; and

a secondary solvent.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein the fatty acids form a fatty acid mixture which comprises about 55% by weight of the fatty acid mixture of a C₈ fatty acid and about 40% by weight of the fatty acid mixture of a C₁₀ fatty acid.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the lipophilic polar solvent is propylene glycol.

7. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the lipophilic polar solvent is present in the amount from about 50% to about 75% by weight of composition.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein the secondary solvent is selected from the group consisting of:

water, alcohol, and mixtures thereof.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein one of the fatty acids is caprylic acid.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein one of the fatty acids is capric acid.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing the incidence of mastitis in a dairy animal, the method comprising the step of:

topically applying an antimicrobial composition to the teats of the animal, the composition comprising; from about 60% by weight of the composition to about 95% by weight of the composition of a lipophilic ~~[[polar]]~~ solvent having a dielectric constant greater than 25, and at least two C₈ to C₁₄ fatty acids in the total amount of from about 0.5% to about 5% by weight of the composition.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the lipophilic ~~[[polar]]~~ solvent is selected from a group consisting of propylene glycol, ethylene~~[[;]]~~ glycol, glycerol, and isopropanol.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the fatty acids form a fatty acid mixture which comprises about 55% by weight of the fatty acid mixture of a C₈ fatty acid and about 40% by weight of the fatty acid mixture of a C₁₀ fatty acid.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the antimicrobial composition has a pH below about 4.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein at least one of the fatty acids in the antimicrobial composition is selected from a group consisting of:

a C₁₂ fatty acid or a C₁₄ fatty acid.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein at least one of the fatty acids in the antimicrobial composition is a C₈ fatty acid.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing the incidence of mastitis in a dairy animal, the method comprising the step of:

topically applying an antimicrobial composition to the teats or udder of the animal,

the composition comprising:

from about 60% to about 95% of a lipophilic ~~[[polar]]~~ solvent having a

dielectric constant greater than 25 by weight of composition; and

at least two C₈ to C₁₄ fatty acids in a total amount from about 0.5% to 5% by

weight of the composition.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the lipophilic ~~[[polar]]~~ solvent is selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol, ethylene glycol, and glycerol.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the lipophilic ~~[[polar]]~~ solvent is present in the amount from about 50% to about 75% by weight of composition.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein one of the fatty acids is caprylic acid.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein one of the fatty acids is capric acid.

24. (Currently Amended) An antimicrobial composition for reducing the incidence of mastitis in a dairy animal, the composition comprising:

from about 60% to about 95% of a lipophilic ~~[[polar]]~~ solvent having a dielectric constant greater than 25, by weight of the composition; and at least two C₈ to C₁₄ fatty acids in the total amount of from about 0.5% to about 5% by weight of the composition.

25. (Currently Amended) The antimicrobial composition of claim 24, wherein the lipophilic ~~[[polar]]~~ solvent is selected from a group consisting of: propylene glycol, ethylene glycol, and glycerol.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Original) The antimicrobial composition of claim 24, wherein the antimicrobial composition has a pH below about 4.

28. (Previously Presented) The antimicrobial composition of claim 24, wherein the fatty acids are selected from the group consisting essentially of C₈, C₉, C₁₀, C₁₂ and C₁₄ fatty acids.